UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Corr.1
14 February 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)
Third session
New York, 5-16 February 1996
Agenda item 4

OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE: DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS AND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Preamble (paras. 1-12)

(Section I of the draft Habitat Agenda)

Text submitted by Working Group II on the basis of negotiations held on document A/CONF.165/PC.3/4

Corrigendum

1. Page 2, paragraph 1

Replace the existing text with the following:

1. We recognize the imperative need to improve the quality of human settlements which profoundly affects our daily lives and well-being of our people. There is a sense of great opportunity and hope that a new world can be built in which economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development can be realized through solidarity and cooperation within and between countries, and through effective partnerships at all levels. International cooperation and universal solidarity, guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in a spirit of partnership, are crucial in order to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world.

2. Page 2, second complete paragraph under paragraph 2, last sentence

For Our present objective read Our objective

3. Page 2, third complete paragraph under paragraph 2, and paragraph 2 bis

Replace the existing text of both paragraphs with the following:

As to the second theme, sustainable development of human settlements combines economic development, social development and environmental protection, with full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and offers a means to achieving a world of greater stability and peace, build on ethical and spiritual vision. [Democracy, and transparent, representative and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society are indispensable foundations for the realization of sustainable development. However, the lack of development and the existence of widespread absolute poverty inhibit the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and render fragile democracy and popular participation.]

4. Pages 4-5, paragraphs 9 to 9 quin

Replace the existing text with the following:

9. More people than ever are living in absolute poverty and without adequate shelter. Inadequate shelter and homelessness are growing plights in many countries, threatening standards of health, security and even life itself. [Everyone should be entitled to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.] The rapidly increasing number of displaced persons, including refugees, other displaced persons in need of international protection and internally displaced persons, as a result of natural and human-made disasters in many regions of the world, is aggravating the shelter crisis, highlighting the need for a speedy solution to the problem on a durable basis. The needs of children and youth have to be taken fully into account [recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for children, consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child]. Special attention needs to be paid to participatory processes dealing with the shaping of cities, towns and neighbourhoods; this is in order to secure the living conditions of children and of youth and to make use of their insight, creativity and thoughts on the environment. Special attention must be paid to shelter needs of vulnerable children, such as street children, refugee children and children who are victims of sexual exploitation. In shelter and urban development and management policies, particular attention should be given to the needs and participation of indigenous people. These policies should fully respect their identity and culture [and support their aspirations for social justice and provide an environment that enables them to participate in social, economic and political life]. Women have an important role to play in the attainment of sustainable human settlements. Nevertheless, as a result of a number of factors, including the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women and gender discrimination, women face particular constraints in obtaining adequate shelter and in fully participating in decision-making related to sustainable human settlements. The empowerment of women and their full and

equal participation in political, social and economic life, the improvement of health, and the alleviation of poverty are essential to achieving sustainable human settlements.

5. Pages 10-11

Paragraphs 10 and 10 bis should be joined as a single paragraph.